Between the Lines

**The Christian Layman's Information Service—
Condensed, Non-Denominational**

$1.00 a year. Published every two weeks
152 Madison Avenue New York 16, N. Y.
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Reentered as second class matter October 24, 1942 at the post office at New York 16, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1899.

Vol. IV, No. 10 *A report on inside trends, forecasts of significant developments, and other matters pertinent to Christian thinking on economics, labor, social strife, and international affairs.* May 7, 1945

Moving Spotlight

Black Market Vs Bandages

Greed is still a major sin. A New York inventor, Dr. Abraham Freitag, developed a superior bandage and was granted priority on cloth supplies so that he might fill huge Army and Navy contracts. A legitimate profit and the satisfaction of supplying a vital war requirement for the country was not enough for Dr. Freitag. Government authorities claim he pocketed $500,000 for the illegal sale of 3 million yards of priority cloth to black market racketeers. So, because of one man's greed, cloth needed for bandages has been used for aprons, handkerchiefs and dresses.

Monopoly Stages Sit-Down Strike

One of the country's most powerful big business leaders, Will L. Clayton, assistant secretary of state, has accused the Aluminum Corporation of negotiating a deal with the government that amounts to nothing more or less than a hold-up. According to Mr. Clayton's testimony before the Senate Small Business Committee, ALCOA refused to increase its aluminum production beyond 5,000,000 pounds (because it "would have no post-war interest" in a greater capacity than that figure) and insisted that, if additional aluminum supplies were needed so badly, the government finance the means of producing them. Additional aluminum facilities, said ALCOA, "must be provided out of the proceeds of aluminum sold by the company to the government."

Because of the desperate war need, the United States government financed, at a cost of $65,000,000, the Shipshaw plant of the Aluminum Corporation of Canada which is an ALCOA subsidiary, and agreed to accept aluminum in repayment for the loan. The Canadian company now holds a United States government contract for 250,000,000 pounds of aluminum although several American aluminum plants need orders to keep them in production.

There seems to be little difference between the refusal of a huge monopoly to produce in a war emergency

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"DON'T FRATERNIZE" is the order hammered at our troops in Germany. At the same time in Wall Street, Washington, London and Paris the cartel monopoly groups, which control the world's supply of rubber, tin, oil and chemicals, are meeting and making plans to cooperate with German industry as soon as hostilities cease. "Don't fraternize" is the slogan plastered all around the tired, dust-covered GI who is glad to see any face that smiles and doesn't wear an iron hat. "Don't fraternize"—that is for the doughboy who is so exhausted and sick of blood and war that he could weep at the sight of any open-faced youngster with clean yellow hair and blue eyes. But "don't fraternize" is not for the old fellows who made the guns, sold the oil and exchanged the secrets on patents and powders, for theirs is the sacred fraternity of power and profits.

X-Ray and Forecast

American Christian Ideals Represented

The most satisfying and encouraging aspect of the San Francisco conference, from the standpoint of the Christian layman, is that this is one diplomatic meeting in which the American people and their basically Christian ideals are being truly represented in a way that reduces to a minimum the political double talk and double dealing so rife at Teheran and Yalta. Even a staunch Democrat can gain satisfaction in knowing keen-eyed Republican wheel horse Vandenburg is there, that able, devout Christian layman Harold Stassen is there, as well as others typifying a cross section of American thought. Also in advisory capacity are respected Christian laymen such as John Foster Dulles. Whatever achievement is gained, there will be little deception—and that is a signal victory.

Combat Secrecy and Intrigue

Great pressure has developed lately toward demanding a rewriting and renewal of the principles of justice and moral rightness as a foundation for the work of the San Francisco conference. Such world commanding voices as Herbert Hoover, H. G. Wells and the Roman Catholic Pope have asked this. Vandenburg and Stassen, as accredited delegates, have openly voiced this resolve as one of the primary tasks they will attempt to achieve. **This approach is of enormous importance because it clashes directly with much that is going on and that has already been done behind the scenes in the diplomatic world.**

All the facts following are openly admitted in diplomatic circles, and many items have been exposed at least piecemeal by The Christian Century, Drew Pearson, Christian Science Monitor, David Lawrence and other sources that try to speak out from under censorship. Here are some matters which have been brewing:

1. Secret deals to give Britain major control of Italian colonies in Africa.
2. Secret agreements to give Russia control in the Balkans and to hush-hush news of undemocratic procedures liquidating anti-Soviet sentiments or personalities in Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and elsewhere—a process being carried on right now and carefully censored out of the news.
3. Secret agreements to use British arms to reestablish a grip on lost British, French and Dutch colonies in Asia (Burma, Indo-China, Malaya) while American lads do four-fifths of the fighting against the Japanese and American taxpayers pay nine-tenths of the bill.
4. Secret agreements to let British and French armies occupy the chief industrial areas of Germany so that big business representatives of London and Paris can protect and cooperate with the long established and still standing financial and industrial monopolists of Germany. London and Paris aristocracy has long shared monopolies and profits with German industrialists.

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Moving Spotlight

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and the refusal of a worker to produce —except that when the worker does it it is called a sit-down strike, and when the monopoly does it, the affair is hushed up.

Relief Revelations

Washington circles frankly admit that both Russia and Britain have been using UNRRA relief money to further their own political interests. The UNRRA officer assigned to Poland, John B. Gregg, had to resign because his mission could not get a Russian visa. His post is now filled by M. N. Menshikov, the Russian Deputy Director of UNRRA.

The policy of giving the democratic opposition no food supplies has already been followed in Greece by the British and it has been established that the British Director of UNRRA in Greece was a colonel of the Intelligence Service who paid subsidies to several Greek factions in order to provoke the civil war. He used relief funds in this connection and to render British intervention possible.

When these abuses were exposed in Washington, a storm of protest naturally arose. Drew Pearson verified the story the next day by restating that, "a British colonel, posing as a UNRRA worker in Greece, was found with receipts showing British payments to Greek factions to encourage fighting the left wing. The British Information Service issued a denial.

"Later, Reuters, British news service, phoned the UNRRA for comment on the story. 'You'll deny it, won't you?' said Reuters.

" 'No,' replied UNRRA. 'The story is true.' "

Serving Humanity

The Community Church of New York has added another service to its already lengthy list of community helps. An organization for the mediation of discriminatory practices because of race, nationality, religion or sex, sponsored by 22 Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis, has been inaugurated. It is called the Open Door.

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5. The secret deal at Teheran to give British and French a free hand in the Mediterranean, resulting in such shameful travesties of democratic justice as now exist in Greece, Italy, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestine and elsewhere.

6. A secret deal between Roosevelt and Churchill, understood to have been made over Roosevelt's protest, not to let a race equality plank get into the world organization platform. Chinese delegations fought hard for this tenet but were not successful in getting Anglo-American support for it.

7. And above all the well-known secret agreement among the colonial empire leaders to do all possible, without arousing public wrath, to sabotage the Atlantic Charter. The Charter has stirred up millions of yellow, brown and black peoples of the earth as nothing has for centuries. Churchill openly tried to sabotage it for a while, said it didn't apply to British Asia, that it was impractical, but lately he has been forced to camouflage his attitude by resounding but meaningless words of endorsement which are soon cancelled out by some crack about keeping dominated peoples in their place. Lord Halifax has carried on a campaign before American audiences to sell us the idea that Britain approves the Charter, yet when questioners pin him down on its application, adroit maneuvers leave an empty shell of words.

8. Secret agreements to give the world a sympathetic smile and vague apologies for the shameful record of hundreds of thousands of Jews who have been butchered by Nazis in the past two years but who could easily have been saved had they been allowed to escape to Palestine. The ships to take them were ready, (the London and Washington excuse was shortage of shipping), but Arabian-Moslem opposition barred the way. Official circles in Washington and London say that the Moslem-Arabian world, where the chief source of British oil (with America cutting in for a percentage) is located, would have been aroused to bitter resentment, jeopardizing Britain's oil supply. So every barrel of British oil has been paid for by a pint of Jewish blood. This is emphasized in the most ironic way by the fact that Britain allowed Arabian leaders full representation at San Francisco—with a collection of Ibn Saud's family going along for the sightseeing—**but no Palestine representation was permitted whatever.**

Conscription Conspiracy

Washington officials, especially top flight War Department figures, have been busy lately trying to suppress the effects of a political hand grenade that just blew up in their faces. One of their own high ranking military personalities resigned from active military duty and charged in both spoken and written words that the plan to put over military conscription under cover of the war is a giant conspiracy against the rank and file of the civilian public.

Former Lieutenant-Colonel Roscoe S. Conkling served as a Selective Service official in both World War I and World War II, so is familiar with conscription methods, achievements and procedures. His political affiliations are conservative, he is a Republican and a successful New York lawyer.

Convinced that peace-time military conscription is unnecessary, is being pushed at a time when the country is "in the midst of war hysteria," and that the scheme is being promoted by selfish "conspirators," Mr. Conkling resigned his Army commission in order to be free to make public his beliefs. The sponsors of compulsory military training know, says Mr. Conkling, that returned servicemen are not likely to favor "more soldiering," and that the public as a whole will be little inclined, once peace has been achieved, to endorse the widespread drafting of American youth. Therefore, every possible attempt will be made to jam through legislation for peace-time conscription now, as soon as possible.

Mr. Conkling declares that those who are trying to force conscription upon us are those who stand to gain personally, such as Army and Navy officers whose rank and pay have been increased by the war and who stand a better chance of maintaining those increases in large peace-time military forces; many reserve officers, officers "commissioned from civil life," and the "Plattsburg Crowd" which includes the Secretary of War and many civilian chiefs of the Army and Navy; and civilian interests which make enormous profits out of the production and sale of military equipment. According to Mr. Conkling, the drive is headed by "one of the Army's most publicized

by 22 Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis, has been inaugurated. It is called the Open Door.

Dr. John Haynes Holmes, minister of Community Church, once described his church as "an institution of religion dedicated to the service of humanity," and its activities now include, besides the newly established anti-bias board, a hostel to aid in the resettlement of Nisei; individual psychology service; a marriage consultation center; legal consultation service; a social service consultant; an all-nations fellowship, which makes available help for conscientious objectors in camps and prisons; and a camp in Putnam County.

Community Church is interracial. Its social gatherings, like all its other activities, are open to both white and colored people. Negroes serve on the Board of Trustees and various church committees. The assistant minister, Rev. Donald Harrington, said, "We are entirely unconscious of whether a man or woman is white or colored. That is the way we like it to be."

Boycott of Public Health Plans

A group of physicians in Indiana are planning a sure-fire way to promote some radical kind of socialized medicine instead of helping the country evolve a reasonable and progressive public health program. The Indiana organization, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, asks its members and other doctors throughout the country to refuse medical aid to any sick person who participates in a group health plan and to refuse to associate professionally or cooperate with "physicians, hospitals or other institutions that participate in schemes for the distribution of medical care opposed by the A.A.P.S."

The obvious aim of this organization is to enlist an overwhelming majority of the nation's medical men in a drive against physicians and hospitals cooperating in group health plans or government medical care. If such a boycott were successful, any national legislation which might be passed guaranteeing adequate health care for every citizen would be, to all practical purposes, nullified. It is by these reactionary methods that old line doctors are fighting the younger, more progressive medical men.

SHE STANDS ALONE

The world is almost completely submerged in the floods of universal hatreds that have risen higher and higher with the tides of war. Only one aspect of human love seems to remain above the dark waters, and that is the universal mother love which neither war nor propaganda can sweep from the consciousness of men. Her love, like God's love, embraces all the shattered, broken, plundered youth of our day. It knows no frontier or barrier. Cannot we realize that this Mother's day gives us one last foothold from which we may begin to rebuild our world? It is the one place that God still has His way with human nature.

A Thought for Mother's Day

One of the sweetest and yet most thought-provoking stories concerning President Harry Truman is the report about his conversation with his 92-year-old mother when he called to tell her of his vice presidential nomination. The old Baptist mother closed the conversation by saying, "Now you behave yourself, Harry." Don't you wish there were a lot of old-fashioned mothers alive today to call up important figures every so often to say "Now you behave yourself, Winston!"—or "Joseph," or "Anthony," or "Edward."

Rivalry

We hear that publicity-minded Los Angeles leaders have been having fits because San Francisco, their mortal rival, is getting world wide advertising due to the conference. Los Angeles spokesmen have been raising the roof trying to have the meeting called the "California conference." It just goes to show that, if the row over Poland was settled, we'd still have problems. Only Californians use puns and slogans instead of bullets.

For Reference

The State Department distributed two books to our delegates to San Francisco to guide them in the conference. The two best books for that would have been the Old Testament and the New Testament; the Old to help them to understand the past, and the New to help them understand the future.

Reason for Resignation

The official reason for the Duke of Windsor's resignation from his post as governor of the Bahamas was that he desired a rest and a return to civilian living. Plenty of plain talk by those who know indicates that the trouble was that Edward attempted to improve the lot of the long held-down colored population. He made efforts to raise the local standards of living, he tried to modernize the constitution under which four-fifths of the inhabitants are barred from the polls, and he sponsored secret ballot legislation. The rich white landowners, who largely control politics in the Bahamas, successfully fought the proposed reforms with all their power and influence. Windsor finally resigned, refusing any longer to take the responsibility for conditions which he was powerless to change.

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profits out of the production and sale of military equipment. According to Mr. Conkling, the drive is headed by "one of the Army's most publicized non-fighting major generals." Washington whispers that that man is General Hershey who heads Selective Service now and would probably direct any peace-time conscript training.

Whose War?

Not many United States citizens realize that Canadians need not fight in the Pacific unless they volunteer for such service. This policy was announced in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Mackenzie King. Mr. King also promised that Canadian troops in Europe who will take part in the war against Japan will first have at least a thirty day leave at home.

Canada's one attempt at compulsory conscription a few months ago, when about 16,000 soldiers were drafted for overseas service, did not work out very satisfactorily. Great numbers of the draftees deserted, about 4,000 are still at large. Except for that unhappy experiment, overseas service for Canadian troops has been limited to volunteers and this practice will be continued with regard to the Japanese war.

Quite a contrast to what we have south of the border, isn't it, in view of the fact that we are fighting to defend Australia, India and Burma. . . .

Food Crisis

One outstanding fact that the American people are not being allowed to know about is that in almost all the liberated areas of Europe the food situation is actually worse than it was during Nazi occupation. Returning correspondents are almost all of the opinion that unless food conditions are improved democratic governments and lasting peace will be impossible. Abundant reports also indicate that the European aristocracy—landed and industrial—are still living in regal style by permission of the Allied governments, even although these aristocrats are known to have collaborated with the Nazis. The excuse given in high places in London and Washington is that not to protect these established aristocrats in their traditional luxury would induce revolution. But newsmen say that the Allied policy is a sure-fire way to hasten revolution.

X-Ray and Forecast

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What's Behind the Atrocity Stories?

Behind the flood of Nazi atrocity stories which now fill the air are stories of Germans who did not commit atrocities. These stories are being held back, left untold, as every official in our War Department knows. Reports of German underground groups which gave valiant aid to our forces are numerous. American fliers by the hundreds, who bailed out over Germany, have been rescued and delivered safely across the border into friendly territory. German Christian pastors, priests and lay churchmen, at the risk of life and imprisonment, have served the Allied cause.

Here are the reasons heard around Washington for this method of giving the people only half the truth:

1. War fever will be whipped up to the necessary pitch to carry over V-E day so that there will be no let-down in the war with Japan.

2. Popular acceptance of conscription will be pushed as war hysteria mounts.

3. British tories have been subtly propagandizing for a soft settlement with German leaders. American military men are furious over this London viewpoint, and, since we have done three-quarters of the fighting in Europe, our War Department hopes that the atrocity reports will whip up American sentiments for a tough peace. You will notice that the release of atrocity news was neatly timed to reach the crest of the wave just before the San Francisco conference convened.

Problem

An old time Army sergeant writes us that all the reconversion talk isn't so important. "What you better figure out first," he says, "is how you ever gonna get Patton demobilized!"

Those Who Witness

The press has given considerable space to alleged conditions in the Civilian Public Service Camps where conscientious objectors are being held by the government. The papers print lurid stories about CO's refusing to work, going AWOL and generally running afoul camp regulations and the authorities. Dependable Christian sources report that these charges are highly exaggerated and in many instances entirely false. The real trouble is that CO's object to the valueless and meaningless kind of work they are assigned to do. Often 75 men are put on a job requiring only 25 men. In the manpower shortage they feel that there are many worthwhile tasks of service to humanity that they could be doing instead of the boondoggling prevalent in the CPS system. Many CO's are skilled and well-trained technical men, and they have become desperate and frustrated at this wastage of their abilities.

However, at this time considerable heart-searching is going on among CO groups as to the consistent attitude toward the problem of such frustration on the part of the sincere pacifist. Is his chief task only what he does with his time and abilities during this specific period or is it the larger task of "witnessing"—which the whole CPS system in the final analysis represents? These highly sensitive and courageous young men, for the vast majority of them are both, are finding the task of witnessing in a war-mad world just about as difficult as soldiering—and in many ways just as dangerous. It can be easier to become adjusted to an artificial limb than to a prison record.

Franco and Spain

Catholic leadership is beginning to quit Franco. After sponsoring him, financing him and praising him, the tide of war suddenly leaves the Vatican in an embarrassing position, (except that the Vatican seems never to be embarrassed). Those who aided and praised Franco are being quietly stowed away for a while, and new voices are heard which speak for "democracy in Spain." It hasn't been long since America's Archbishop Spellman wrote and spoke glowingly of "my dear friend Franco." The Church will, with its usual magnificent adroitness, pull itself in line for the inevitable upheaval that will hit Spain when Franco's partners are finally disposed of.

Toward Civic Order

The wisest words we have read on the San Francisco conference were written by John Foster Dulles:

"The society of nations is still in a primitive state. Its members have never yet been brought under any central authority. They are like frontiersmen or tribal chieftains who have always lived independently, relying upon their own skill and their own weapons to survive.

"Some disaster brings them to feel that there is a better way of living. So, as a first step, they gather around a campfire or in a meeting hall. They are wary of each other. If they are searched, many lethal weapons would be found concealed about their persons. But they have at least come together to talk about matters of common interest. That is the first step toward civic order.

"Those who have come together to talk must arrange to keep on talking. If they break up and go home to resume their separate ways, then the opportunity to create order will have been lost until a new disaster brings the group together again. To produce a program which will prevent that breakup and assure continuing association is the technical task of the San Francisco Conference."

Maybe we should paste that quotation on our bedroom mirrors and read it every day when the propaganda boys in Washington start whooping it up again as they did over the Cairo, Teheran and Yalta conferences. There is great hope now for building lasting peace, but that hope is pinned to justice and truth and not to the sharp diplomacy and political oratory which has characterized the past 24 months of world political action.

No wonder Dr. Gallup of the famous Gallup polls has put it on record that in his judgment two-thirds of the people of America don't know what the San Francisco conference is about.

Watching Congress

Important issues in Congress to watch:

MVA

A Missouri Valley Authority to do for nine Missouri Valley states what TVA did for the Tennessee area. Big, privately-owned utility corporations are fighting this, but the facts are all on the side of public interest as against private profit corporations controlled by a few. The bill goes first to the Senate Commerce Committee, then to the Senate Irrigation and Reclamation Committee and after that to the Senate Agriculture Committee. Getting the bill out on the Senate floor will be a long drill.

FEPC

The Fair Employment Practice Committee setup by President Roosevelt to guarantee Negroes fair wages and fair opportunity for advancement in keeping with their abilities and thus to fight racial discrimination in industry and business. Old time southern plantation bosses in Congress are fighting this, while some younger southern Congressmen are for it and will vote for it although they don't dare say much about it openly. The bill has been bottled up in the House Rules Committee. Efforts are being made to get it on the floor.

Conscription

Military peace-time conscription. Discussion on this has been postponed until summer. State Department and War Department officials state that this was done to avoid an embarrassing debate in Congress during the San Francisco conference. Insiders say that the real fact is that Congress has been made so keenly aware of firm opposition to conscription on the part of both Catholic and Protestant church groups, education and labor organizations that the War Department has been forced to call off the fight to reorganize its lines. All the average citizen ever hears about conscription is the War Department's propaganda which floods the press and radio, but opposition is powerful and widespread as indicated by the interested organizations mentioned above.